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Message Text

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53
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CU-05 OMB-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /118 W
---------- 083969
R 011138Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7265
INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
DIA WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU
13TH AF/IN CLARK AB PHILIPPINES

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TH
SUBJ: RADICAL STUDENT LEADERS STILL GET LITTLE RESPONSE IN N.E.

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO CHIENG MAI SONGKHLA
FROM UDORN ON 30 SEP. REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE UDORN 210

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TH
SUBJECT: RADICAL STUDENT LEADERS STILL GET LITTLE RESPONSE IN N.E.

1. STUDENT ACTIVISTS IN UDORN, LED BY CHALUAY KHAMDII AND
APPARENTLY UNDER FIRE FROM BANGKOK FOR THEIR LACK OF SUCCESS
IN GETTING ANYTHING GOING IN CITY, ATTEMPTED TO STAGE A WORKER
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PROTEST ON SATURDAY WITH SAMLOR DRIVERS. HOWEVER THEIR

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COMBINED EFFORTS HARVESTED ONLY SMALL POTATOES.

2. ON SATURDAY, 28 SEPT, A SMALL GROUP OF RADICAL STUDENTS FROM UDORN TEACHERS COLLEGE TRIED TO ORGANIZE SAMLOR DRIVERS FOR A PROTEST MEETING, USING AS AN ISSUE THE HIGH RENT THE DRIVERS HAVE TO PAY TO THE SAMLOR OWNERS. THEY MANAGED TO GATHER ABOUT 1000 DRIVERS, AND TO THE BACKDROP OF U.S. JETS TAKING OFF FROM THE BASE, HARANGUED THEM FOR SEVERAL HOURS, LARGELY ON ISSUES OF ECONOMIC WELFARE. WHILE RESPONSE WAS VOCAL FROM AN INNER CORE, DRIVERS ON THE FRINGES SHOWED ONLY MILD INTEREST, AND THE TOTAL GATHERED WAS ESTIMATED TO BE LESS THAN ONE-FOURTH OF THE NUMBER IN TOWN.

3. IN THE END A 4 MEMBER DELEGATION COMPOSED EQUALLY OF STUDENTS AND SAMLOR DRIVERS MET WITH THE GOVERNOR AND DEMANDED THAT HE: GET THE OWNERS TO REDUCE THEIR RENT, BAN 1-BAHT BUSSES FROM THE TOWN, OPEN ALL STREETS TO SOLICITATION FOR PASSENGERS AND REMOVE THE DISAGREEABLE TRAFFIC POLICEMAN. THE GOVERNOR AGREED TO THE LAST TWO, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TRY TO RESTRICT BAHT BUSSES AND PROMISED TO TALK TO THE OWNERS ABOUT RENT REDUCTION.

4. THIS APPEARS TO BE PART OF A STUDENT EFFORT TO CREATE UNITED LABOR FRONT. THEREFORE IT IS INTERESTING THAT STUDENTS COULD ENGENDER NO MORE SUPPORT FOR THE RENT REDUCTION ISSUE. PRESENT RENT IS 10-12 BAHT DAILY FOR AN OLD SAMLOR AND 15 FOR A NEW ONE. THERE IS ALSO A RUMOR THAT ALL RENTS WILL SOON BE RAISED TO 15. SINCE A NEW SAMLOR COSTS ONLY ABOUT 4000 BAHT AND A DRIVER MAY TAKE IN 30 BAHT ON A GOOD DAY, THE OWNER RECOVERS HIS INVESTMENT TE ABOUT A YEAR AND THE DRIVER IS LEFT WITH ONLY A MARGINAL WAGE.

5. IN OTHER ACTIVITY, BANGKOK DAILY THAI RATH CARRIED FRNT PAGE STORY ABOUT PLANNED STUDENT PROTEST IN UBON TO INCLUDE ANTI-U.S. ACTIVITIES AND NOTED THAT FEAR OF CLASHES BETWEEN STUDENTS AND U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL HAD LED TO RESTRICTION OF U.S. FORCES TO BASE. WHILE THERE WAS A STUDENT GROUP FROM KHON KAEN IN UBON, INCLEMENT WEATHER KEEP SPIRITS DAMP AND U.S. BASE COMMANDER HAD NOT RESTRICTED TROOPS TO BASE. THE STUDENTS TODAY ARE REPORTEDLY OFF TO SISAKET, WHERE THEY
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WERE RUN OUT OF TWON LAST TIME.
BIGELOW
UNQUOTE
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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